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05/10/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 MAY 10, 2012 MEETING

RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Joyce Edmonds, Lisa Fredman, Cathy Garnett, Martine Gougault, Rachel James, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoy, Stephan Miller, David White.

Facilitator: David White

Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conference Rm.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting of 4/12 were accepted as presented.
2. Work days: The first ones were held April 28-29 at the habitat garden. On Saturday we cleaned up, planted some bought and some donated shrubs, and spread 4 cubic yards of mulch. On Sunday, some Girl Scouts helped plant perennials. We approved reimbursing Martine for plants purchased for these two events from money in the ALT conservation fund designated for the habitat garden. The total amount spent was \$426.09. The mulch was provided from a credit we had from Lalicata from last year.
3. The next step should be to observe what is growing and what areas look too sparse due to thefts. Rachel and Martine will compile a "wish list" for the June meeting. Adding more wood chips on the paths by Busa Farm can wait until the fall.
4. If we notice that any plant has been stolen, we should tell David, who will notify the police.
5. Signage: David has put up signs at the garden asking people to watch out for theft. Such a sign should be added at the kiosk. At the swimming area a sign should invite people to visit the garden. Rachel will make samples of interpretive signs. These could be put on a bulletin board and numbered, and a small sign with the number placed beside the plant. Signs should state when the plant flowers and what creatures use it and how.
6. Fencing: Cathy and Martine will investigate options. Some ideas were discussed: Avoid rigid-looking fencing. Find something "organic-looking," e.g. Virginia creeper growing over chicken wire, or interwoven branches (Elizabeth could supply old raspberry canes in the fall).
7. Grass from edges of planting beds keeps growing into the beds. A solution alongside the main walking paths is to remove grass and replace with wood chips over strips of landscape fabric.
8. Calendar: Lisa, Ann, Martine, and Joyce are the calendar subcommittee.
9. Miscellany:
 - a. The island near the parking lot has a lot of Japanese knotweed. David will try to organize efforts to control it.
 - b. Protect trees from mower damage by clearing a circle around the tree and covering it with wood chips. Girl Scouts could help with this. We need to arrange with DPW for wood chips for this and for the garden edges. Date to be determined.
 - c. A list of tasks that a small group with a leader could accomplish could be published in the Arlington Advocate to ask for volunteers. Lisa and Joyce will work on such a list.
 - d. The kiosk needs some repairs. David will see if Andrew Fischer can do it, else we can ask for help via the Arlington List.
 - e. Wood chips on the path at Busa Farm would probably be a half-day project for a dozen people. Dog walkers could be asked for help via a sign. This could be a fall project.